

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
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E.O.11652:XGDS-3
TAGS:PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF TECHNICAL WORKING
GROUP MEETING, MAY 16, 1978

CTB MESSAGE NO.206

1. SUMMARY: AT MAY 16 TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP, FINCH
(US) COMPLETED RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS POSED BY TARASOV
(USSR) ON MAY 12. TARASOV CONTINUED TO INSIST THAT US
MUST PROVIDE PROPOSED NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS OF NATIONAL
SEISMIC STATIONS (NSS) AS WELL AS DOCUMENTATION DESCRIB-
ING NSS EQUIPMENT BEFORE DETAILED RESPONSES TO US
PROPOSALS COULD BE MADE, BUT SAID SOVIET DEL WOULD THINK
ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF WORKING ON SOME SPECIFIC SUGGESTED
LANGUAGE NOW. END SUMMARY.

2. FINCH ANSWERED TARASOV QUESTIONS ON NUMBERS AND
LOCATIONS OF NSS BY REPEATING THAT ALTHOUGH WE WERE NOT
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YET READY TO PRESENT A PROPOSED NETWORK OF NSS IN THE
SOVIET UNION, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE MATERIAL IN OUR
ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT WHICH COULD BE DEALT WITH IN THE MEAN-
TIME. IN RESPONSE TO TARASOV'S REQUEST FOR FULL DOCU-
MENTATION DESCRIBING THE SEISMIC EQUIPMENT BEING DEVELOPED
BY THE US, HE STRESSED THAT MATERIAL ALREADY PROVIDED
SHOULD BE ADEQUATE TO PERMIT SOVIETS TO RESPOND ON ACCEPT-

ABILITY OF CONCEPT OF USING US EQUIPMENT. HE INVITED SOVIET EXPERTS TO VISIT NEW MEXICO FACILITY WHERE EQUIPMENT WAS BEING DESIGNED AND STUDY DOCUMENTATION AVAILABLE THERE, AS WELL AS CENTER IN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, WHERE PROCEDURES FOR DATA HANDLING AND ANALYSIS WERE BEING DEVELOPED. ON TIMING FOR TRANSMITTING DATA, FINCH NOTED THAT WE PREFERRED DATA TRANSMISSION IN REAL TIME, BUT HAD MENTIONED THE POSSIBILITY OF A BRIEF DELAY IN RESPONSE TO SOVIET DEL'S EXPRESSED CONCERN. ONE HOUR APPEARED TO BE THE MAXIMUM DELAY THAT WOULD AVOID A SUBSTANTIAL RISK OF INTRODUCING ERRORS DURING DATA STORAGE. REGARDING RELIABILITY OF DATA TRANSMISSION, FINCH NOTED THAT THE FIGURES QUOTED BY THE US WERE ACHIEVABLE AND SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION IN A SMALLER GROUP. FINALLY, HE DESCRIBED RELIABILITY FEATURES OF THE BOREHOLE PACKAGE DESIGN AND POINTED OUT THAT SINCE THE GOAL FOR THE SYSTEM UNDER DEVELOPMENT WAS ACTUALLY SIX YEARS MEAN TIME TO FAILURE, WE WERE CONFIDENT THAT THE GOAL OF THREE YEARS COULD BE ACHIEVED.

3. TARASOV SAID THE REASONS THE US DEL WASN'T ANSWERING HIS QUESTIONS ON NUMBER OF STATIONS MIGHT BE INTERESTING, BUT STILL, HE WANTED TO HEAR THE ANSWERS. ON PROCEEDING WITH DISCUSSION OF ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT, TARASOV NOTED THAT MATERIAL FELL INTO TWO CATEGORIES: PROCEDURES FOR INSTALLATION OF STATIONS AND TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF
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STATIONS. HE FELT INSTALLATION PROCEDURES COULD NOT BE DISCUSSED UNTIL US DEL HAD PRESENTED METHODOLOGY ON SELECTING NSS LOCATIONS. DISCUSSION SHOULD PROCEED FROM GENERAL CONSIDERATION OF OVERALL STRATEGY FOR SELECTING REGIONS FOR STATION LOCATIONS, TO METHODS OF SELECTING SPECIFIC SITES. CURRENT US "PIECEMEAL" APPROACH PUT SOVIET DEL IN DIFFICULT POSITION. TARASOV ALSO REAFFIRMED VIEW THAT SELECTION OF AREAS FOR NSS WAS SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF COUNTRY WHERE STATIONS WERE LOCATED, BUT STRESSED AT SAME TIME THAT PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING SPECIFIC SITES WITHIN THESE AREAS COULD BE AGREED UPON.

4. ON TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF STATIONS DESCRIBED BY US DEL, TARASOV AFFIRMED THAT THIS SUBJECT COULD BE DISCUSSED BUT STRESSED THAT A VISIT TO STATION UNDER DEVELOPMENT TO MAKE A VISUAL SURVEY AND "PUSH BUTTONS" WOULD NOT BE A SUBSTITUTE FOR ABILITY TO EXAMINE DESIGN AND TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION. HE ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER US-DEVELOPED EQUIPMENT WOULD BE USED FOR NSS STILL REMAINED TO BE DECIDED. TARASOV, "THINKING ALOUD", SAID THAT OTHER INFORMATION SUCH AS WHETHER US EQUIPMENT WOULD BE SOLD, GIVEN, OR LOANED WOULD HAVE TO BE PROVIDED,

AS WELL AS MORE DETAILED TECHNICAL DOCUMENTATION, IN ORDER TO DECIDE THIS QUESTION.

5. FINCH REPLIED TO TARASOV COMMENTS, SAYING US INTENDED TO SUGGEST GENERAL AREAS WHERE NSS MIGHT BE LOCATED IN SOVIET UNION. SUBJECT TO SOVIET AGREEMENT ON THESE AREAS, SITE SELECTION PROCEDURES AS PROPOSED WOULD THEN COME INTO EFFECT. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THESE PROCEDURES OF GENERAL APPLICABILITY COULD BE DISCUSSED BEFORE DEALING WITH THE SPECIFIC AREAS WHERE NSS WERE TO BE LOCATED --

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THUS PROCEEDING FROM THE GENERAL TO THE SPECIFIC AS SUGGESTED BY TARASOV. ON DETAILED DOCUMENTATION OF STATION DESIGN, US DEL STILL FELT THAT THIS COULD BEST BE PROVIDED IN CONNECTION WITH A VISIT TO US FACILITIES, BUT WOULD CONSIDER THIS QUESTION FURTHER.

6. TARASOV THEN TURNED TO TIMETABLE PROPOSED BY US FOR INSTALLATION OF NSS EQUIPMENT, SAYING HE DID NOT SEE HOW THIS COULD BE DISCUSSED WITHOUT KNOWING THE NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS OF STATIONS. FINCH REPLIED THAT WHILE FINAL AGREEMENT ON SOME ASPECTS OF PROPOSED LANGUAGE COULD BE DEFERRED, THERE WERE SUBSTANTIAL PORTIONS OF THE US ILLUSTRATIVE TEXT - INCLUDING ALL THE LANGUAGE FOR THE SEPARATE VERIFICATION AGREEMENT AND A LARGE PART OF THE ANNEX - WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED NOW.

7. FINALLY, TARASOV ASKED THAT US DEL DESCRIBE THE COMMON ELEMENTS BETWEEN THE SEISMIC RESEARCH OBSERVATORIES (SRO) AND THE EQUIPMENT UNDER DEVELOPMENT BY THE US FOR NSS. TURNBULL EXPLAINED THAT THE BASIC BROADBAND SEISMIC
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INSTRUMENT WAS THE SAME AND THAT MUCH OF THE SURFACE ELECTRONICS OF THE SRO HAD BEEN PUT IN THE DOWNHOLE PACKAGE IN THE NSS EQUIPMENT DESIGN. REDUNDANT CIRCUITS, A SECONDARY SEISMOMETER, AND AUTHENTICATION HAD BEEN ADDED. THERE WAS SOME SIMILARITY IN THE SURFACE INSTALLATION, BUT THE SRO DID NOT HAVE THE PROVISION FOR TELEMETERING BACK DATA.

8. FAKLEY (UK) SUMMARIZED RESULTS OF MEETING BY OUTLINING THREE BASIC AREAS FOR NSS DISCUSSION: NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS OF STATIONS, EQUIPMENT CHARACTERISTICS, AND SITE SELECTION AND MAINTENANCE. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MATERIAL TO BE DISCUSSED EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF A PROPOSAL FROM THE US ON NUMBERS AND LOCATIONS OF STATIONS.

9. FINCH ENDED THE MEETING BY ASKING TARASOV WHETHER SOV DEL FELT THEY WERE READY TO BEGIN IDENTIFYING SOME PORTIONS OF ILLUSTRATIVE US DEL TEXT WHICH COULD BE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL. TARASOV REPLIED THAT SOV DEL WOULD THINK ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY.

10. IN CONVERSATION AFTER MEETING, THIRLAWAY (UK) REPORTED THAT BASHILOV (USSR) HAD MENTIONED THAT SOVIETS WERE WORKING ON AN NSS EQUIPMENT DESIGN OF THEIR OWN TO MEET THE SPECIFICATIONS LAID OUT IN US WORKING PAPER. (US DEL DOES NOT HAVE BASIS AT PRESENT FOR ASSESSING SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS CONVERSATION.) WARNKE

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